

Government of Puerto Rico; Luis G. Fortino, Governor; the following members of the Senate: Ruben Angel Berrios Martinez; Thomas Rivera Schatz, President, Jose L. Dalmau Santiago, Minority Leader; and Eduardo Bhatia Gautier; the following officials of the House; Jennifer Gonzalez Colon, Speaker; and Hector Lerrer Rios, and Carlos Romero-Barcelo, former Governor.

AFGHANISTAN AND PAKISTAN OVERSIGHT—NEW INTERAGENCY STRATEGY

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: and the Subcommittee on National Security and Foreign Affairs held a joint hearing entitled “Afghanistan and Pakistan: Oversight of a New Interagency Strategy.” Testimony was heard from Ambassador Richard C. Holbrooke, U.S. Special Representative to Afghanistan and Pakistan, Department of State; and GEN Wallace Gregson, Assistant Secretary, Asian and Pacific Affairs, Department of Defense.

FEDERAL EMPLOYEE PRESCRIPTION DRUG BENEFITS

Committee on Oversight and Government Reform: Subcommittee on Federal Workforce, Postal Service and the District of Columbia approved for full Committee action, as amended, H.R. 22, To amend chapter 89, title 5, United States Code, to allow the United States Postal Service to pay its share of contributions for annuitants’ health benefits out of the Postal Service Retiree Health Benefits Fund.

The Subcommittee also held a hearing entitled “FEHBP’s Prescription Drug Benefits: Deal or No Deal?” Testimony was heard from the following officials of OPM: Patrick McFarland, Inspector General; and Nancy Kichak, Associate Director, Human Resources Policy Division; John Dicken, Director, Health Care, GAO; and public witnesses.

THE “DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR, ENVIRONMENT, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2010”

Committee on Rules: Granted, by a record vote of 8–3, a structured rule providing for consideration of H.R. 2996, the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2010. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill except for clauses 9 and 10 of rule XXI. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill for failure to comply with clause 2 of rule XXI. The rule makes in order the following amendments: (1) the amendment printed in part A of the Rules Committee report; (2) the

amendments printed in part B of the report; (3) not to exceed three of the amendments printed in part C of the report, if offered by Representative Flake of Arizona or his designee; (4) not to exceed one of the amendments printed in part D of the report, if offered by Representative Campbell of California or his designee; and (5) not to exceed one of the amendments printed in part E of the report, if offered by Representative Hensarling of Texas or his designee. The rule provides that each such amendment shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 10 minutes equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question in the House or in the Committee of the Whole. All points of order against such amendments are waived except those arising under clause 9 or 10 of rule XXI. The rule also provides that the amendments printed in part B, C, D, or E of the report may be offered only at the appropriate point in the reading. The rule provides that for those amendments reported from the Committee of the Whole, the question of their adoption shall be put to the House en gros and without intervening demand for division of the question. The rule provides one motion to recommit with or without instructions. The rule provides that after consideration of the bill for amendment, the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their designees each may offer one pro forma amendment to the bill for the purpose of debate, which shall be controlled by the proponent. The rule provides that the Chair may entertain a motion that the Committee rise only if offered by the chair of the Committee on Appropriations or his designee and that the Chair may not entertain a motion to strike out the enacting words of the bill (as described in clause 9 or rule XVIII). Finally, the rule provides that during consideration of H.R. 2996, the Chair may reduce to two minutes the minimum time for electronic voting under clause 6 of rule XVIII and clauses 8 and 9 or rule XX. Testimony was heard from Chairman Dicks, Representatives Kanjorski; Hinojosa; Simpson; Buyer; Conaway; Garrett of New Jersey; King of Iowa; Nunes; McCaul of Texas; Jordan of Ohio; Lamborn and Roe of Tennessee.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Science and Technology: Ordered reported, as amended, the following bills: H.R. 2965, Enhancing Small Business Research and Innovation Act of 2009; H.R. 2729, To authorize the designation of National Environmental Research Parks by the Secretary of Energy, and for other purposes; and H.R. 1622, To provide for a program of research, development, and demonstration on natural gas vehicles.